

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI-NR 2015-01

Monday, January 12, 2015

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95 percent of public school districts offer 4K

MADISON — Statewide 95 percent of public school districts that provide elementary education offer 4-year-old kindergarten (4K), an increase of five school districts from the previous school year.

“Wisconsin is approaching universal 4K, driven by communities that want to meet the early learning needs of children and their families,” said State Superintendent Tony Evers.

For the 2014-15 school year, 391 public school districts are offering 4K to 47,844 students. About 100 of those programs use a community approach to 4K in which the school district, private child care centers, and Head Start centers collaborate to provide services. Benefits of the community approach to 4K are many and include the common effort to meet the emotional, educational, societal, and physical well-being of children in the community; fewer transitions for young children; and better information sharing among 4K teachers, early childhood staff members, and public schools. Wisconsin is considered a national leader in implementing 4K through the community approach.

Characteristics of quality 4K programs include highly trained teachers who have expertise in early childhood education, small class sizes, and a program that provides rich learning experiences and time for child-directed exploration. Public 4K programs follow the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, which are aligned with the academic standards students will encounter as they progress through school.

School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2001-02	166	14,483
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	235	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078
2007-08	283	27,759
2008-09	319	33,976
2009-10	333	38,075
2010-11	350	41,176
2011-12	368	46,022
2012-13	375	46,914
2013-14	386	48,590
2014-15	391	47,844

“A growing body of research shows that investing in high-quality 4K is good for kids and taxpayers. Whether through traditional programming or Wisconsin’s innovative community approach, 4K works,” Evers said.

Evidence on the short-term and long-term value of high quality pre-school programming for children, schools, and communities is strong. The national Early Childhood Longitudinal Study—Kindergarten Cohort shows that students who attended a pre-kindergarten program scored higher on reading and math tests than

(more)

children who had not been in a pre-kindergarten program. In Oklahoma, a state with voluntary 4K for all students, children who enrolled in 4K have significant academic gains across all income and racial groups. Participation in 4K was a more powerful predictor of children's pre-reading and pre-writing scores than demographic variables such as race, family income, and mother's education level. Long-term benefits focus on the often cited Perry Preschool Project, Chicago Parent Centers, and the Abecedarian Project. All show demonstrably positive effects of quality early learning programs on the future lives of young children. Overall, participants were less likely to need special education services, have lower retention rates, and were more likely to graduate from high school, gain employment, and avoid incarceration and dependency on public assistance. The estimated long-term payback of voluntary, universal preschool programs range from \$2 to \$4 for every dollar spent.

In addition to 4K in public schools and various community approach settings, many 4-year-olds attend state-supported 4K through independent charter and private voucher schools. All of the state's independent charter schools in Racine and Milwaukee that provide elementary education offer 4K, enrolling 891 students. For the 2014-15 school year, 1,994 students are enrolled in 4K at 84 participating Milwaukee Parental Choice Program schools. The Racine Parental Choice Program has 120 students enrolled in seven schools. Eleven of the schools in the statewide Wisconsin Parental Choice Program enrolled 31 students in 4K programs for the 2014-15 school year.

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NOTES: A list of the 391 school districts enrolling 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) students for the 2014-15 school year is attached. This news release and a map of 4K throughout Wisconsin are available electronically at <http://news.dpi.wi.gov/newsroom>. More information about 4K is available at http://ec.dpi.wi.gov/ec_home. A website on the benefits and impacts of the 4K Community Approach is available at <http://4kca.dpi.wi.gov/>.

Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

2014-15 School Year

A-B

Abbotsford
Adams-Friendship Area
Albany
Algoma
Alma
Alma Center
Almond-Bancroft
Altoona
Amery
Antigo
Appleton Area
Arcadia
Argyle
Ashwaubenon
Athens
Auburndale
Augusta
Baldwin-Woodville Area
Bangor
Baraboo
Barneveld
Barron Area
Beaver Dam
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine
Belleville
Belmont Community
Beloit
Beloit Turner
Benton
Berlin Area
Birchwood
Black Hawk
Black River Falls
Blair-Taylor
Bloomer
Bonduel
Boscobel Area
Bowler
Boyceville Community
Brillion
Bristol #1
Brodhead
Brown Deer
Bruce
* Burlington Area
Butternut

C-D

Cadott Community
Cambria-Friesland

Cambridge
Cameron
Campbellsport
Cashton
Cassville
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area
Chequamegon
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser Area
Chilton
Chippewa Falls Area
Clayton
Clear Lake
Clinton Community
Clintonville
Cochrane-Fountain City
Colby
Coleman
Colfax
Columbus
Cornell
Crandon
Crivitz
Cuba City
Cudahy
Cumberland
D C Everest Area
Darlington Community
De Forest Area
De Pere
De Soto Area
Deerfield Community
Delavan-Darien
Denmark
Dodgeland
Dodgeville
Dover #1
Drummond Area
Durand

E-F

East Troy Community
Eau Claire Area
Edgar
Edgerton
Elcho
Eleva-Strum
Elk Mound Area
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah
Elkhorn Area
Ellsworth Community

Elmwood
Erin
Fall Creek
Fall River
Fennimore Community
Flambeau
Florence
Fond du Lac
Fontana J8
Fort Atkinson
Fox Point J2
Frederic
Freedom Area
Friess Lake

G-L

Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau
Geneva J4
* Genoa City J 2
Gillett
Gilman
Gilmanton
Glendale-River Hills
Glenwood City
Goodman-Armstrong
* Grafton
Granton Area
Grantsburg
Green Bay Area
Green Lake
Greendale
Greenfield
Greenwood
Gresham
Hamilton
Hartford J1
Hartland-Lakeside J3
Hayward Community
Herman #22
Highland
Hilbert
Hillsboro
Holmen
Horicon
Hortonville
Howards Grove
Howard-Suamico
Hurley
Hustisford
Independence

Iola-Scandinavia
Iowa-Grant
Ithaca
Janesville
Jefferson
Johnson Creek
Juda
Kaukauna Area
Kenosha
Kettle Moraine
Kewaskum
Kewaunee
Kickapoo Area
Kiel Area
Kimberly Area
Kohler
La Crosse
La Farge
Lac du Flambeau #1
Ladysmith
Lake Country
Lake Geneva J1
Lake Holcombe
Lake Mills Area
Lancaster Community
Laona
Lena
Linn J4
Linn J6
Little Chute Area
Lodi
Lomira
Loyal
Luck

M

Madison Metropolitan
Manawa
Manitowoc
Maple
Maple Dale-Indian Hill
Marathon City
Marinette
Marion
Markesan
Marshall
Marshfield
Mauston
Mayville
McFarland
Medford Area

Mellen	Onalaska	Rosendale-Brandon	Tri-County Area
Melrose-Mindoro	Oostburg	Rosholt	Turtle Lake
Menasha	Oregon	Royall	Twin Lakes #4
Menominee Indian	Osceola	Saint Croix Central	Two Rivers
Menomonee Falls	Oshkosh Area	Saint Croix Falls	Unity
Menomonie Area	Osseo-Fairchild	Saint Francis	V-Y
Mercer	Owen-Withee	Salem	Valders Area
Merrill Area	Palmyra-Eagle Area	Sauk Prairie	Verona
Merton Community	Pardeeville Area	Seneca	Viroqua Area
Middleton-Cross Plains	Parkview	Sevastopol	Wabeno Area
Milton	Pecatonica Area	Seymour Community	Walworth J1
Milwaukee	Pepin Area	Sharon J11	Washburn
Mineral Point	Peshtigo	Shawano	Washington
Minocqua J1	Pewaukee	Sheboygan Area	Washington-Caldwell
Mishicot	Phelps	Sheboygan Falls	Waterloo
Mondovi	Phillips	Shell Lake	Watertown
Monona Grove	Pittsville	Shiocton	Waukesha
Monroe	Platteville	Shorewood	Waunakee Community
Montello	Plum City	Shullsburg	* Waupaca
Monticello	Plymouth	Silver Lake J1	Waupun
Mosinee	Port Edwards	Siren	Wausau
* Mount Horeb Area	Port Washington-Saukville	Slinger	Wausaukee
Muskego-Norway	Portage Community	Solon Springs	Wautoma Area
N-P	Potosi	Somerset	Wauwatosa
Necedah Area	Poynette	South Milwaukee	Wauzeka-Steuben
Neillsville	Prairie du Chien Area	South Shore	Webster
Nekoosa	Prairie Farm	Southern Door County	West Allis
Neosho J3	Prentice	Southwestern Wisconsin	West De Pere
New Auburn	Prescott	Sparta Area	West Salem
New Glarus	Princeton	Spencer	Westby Area
New Holstein	Pulaski Community	Spooner Area	Westfield
New Lisbon	R-S	Spring Valley	Weston
New London	Racine	Stanley-Boyd Area	Weyauwega-Fremont
New Richmond	Randall J1	Stevens Point Area	Wheatland J1
Niagara	Randolph	Stockbridge	White Lake
North Cape	Random Lake	Stone Bank	Whitefish Bay
North Crawford	Raymond #14	Stoughton Area	Whitehall
North Fond du Lac	Reedsburg	Stratford	Whitewater
North Lake	Reedsville	Sturgeon Bay	Whitnall
North Lakeland	Rhineland	Sun Prairie Area	Wild Rose
Northern Ozaukee	Rib Lake	Superior	Williams Bay
Northland Pines	Rice Lake Area	Suring	Winter
Northwood	Richfield J1	T-U	Wisconsin Dells
Norwalk-Ontario-Wilton	Richland	Thorp	Wisconsin Heights
Norway J7	Richmond	Three Lakes	Wisconsin Rapids
Oak Creek-Franklin	Rio Community	Tigerton	Wittenberg-Biramwood
Oakfield	Ripon Area	Tomah Area	Wonewoc-Union Center
Oconomowoc Area	River Falls	Tomahawk	Woodruff J1
Oconto	River Ridge	Tomorrow River	Wrightstown
Oconto Falls	River Valley	Trevor-Wilmot	Yorkville J2
Omro	Riverdale	Consolidated	

NOTE: The five districts marked with an asterisk (*) reported 4K enrollment for the 2014-15 school year and did not have 4K enrollment the previous school year.